

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 11-13 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 12 and 13 being independent.

Claims 1, 12 and 13 have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Buican '627. Claims 1, 6, 9, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Gruber '177 in view of Griner '272. Claims 1, 12 and 13 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious over Buican in view of Griner. Finally, Claim 7 stands rejected as allegedly being obvious over either Gruber or Buican, each in view of Griner, and further in view of Hoffman '623. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicant's invention relates to a target object modification apparatus comprised of an aligner device configured to be able to manipulate a posture of a supplied target modification minute object, first feed means configured to be able to supply the target modification minute object to the aligner device, and first injection means configured to be able to inject first modifiers onto the target modification minute object after the target modification minute object is set to a predetermined posture by the aligner device. In addition, second injection means is configured to be able to inject second modifiers onto the target modification minute object after the target modification minute object is set to a predetermined posture by the aligner device, a carriage is configured to align an injection position for the target modification minute object of the first injection means and the second injection means, and second feed means is configured to extract the target modification minute object from the aligner

device. As amended, Claim 1 recites a fixing device configured to fix the first modifiers and the second modifiers on the target modification minute object.

The Gruber patent relates to a sample chip and is said to include an aligner device, feed means for supplying cells, and injection channels for supplying modifiers.

Griner relates to a holder for storing a specimen tray and is relied on for its teaching of a carriage used for alignment.

The Buican patent relates to a particle control chamber that is said to include first and second feed means, and first and second injection means.

With respect to Claim 1, however, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited art teaches or suggests, among other features, a fixing device configured to fix the first modifiers and the second modifiers on the target modification minute object. Support for this feature can be found, for example, in Figures 7, 8 and 9, and in the corresponding specification on page 16, line 2, *et. seq.*

The Office Action asserts that Gruber teaches a fixing device (in the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5) with respect to Claim 6. It is respectfully submitted, however, that rods 72 are used to form a barrier, but are not configured to fix the injected first and second modifiers on a target modification minute object as set forth in Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that neither Gruber, Griner nor Buican, whether taken individually or in combination with one another, teach or suggest Claim 1 of Applicant's invention.

Claim 12 relates to a target object modification apparatus and includes, among other features, first and second injection means for injecting first and second modifiers,

respectively, onto surfaces of a target modification minute object. As in Claim 1, Claim 12 has been amended to include a fixing device configured to fix the first modifiers and the second modifiers on the target modification minute object.

Claim 13 relates to a method for modifying modifiers onto a target object, and includes first and second modifying steps of injecting and modifying first and second modifiers, respectively, onto surfaces of the target modification minute object. Claim 13 has been amended to include a fixing step of fixing the first modifiers and the second modifiers on the target modification minute object.

Claims 12 and 13 are submitted to be allowable over the cited art for at least the same reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 6, 9, 11, 12 and 13 are respectfully requested.

The Hoffman patent relates to a cleaning apparatus and was cited for its teaching of a recovering mechanism for cleaning and sterilizing injection means. Hoffman fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in the cited art discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Thus, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 1, 12 and 13 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 7, 9 and 11 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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